Government. Presently, new National Highways are not being declared due to fund constraints.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Conversion of State Highways into National Highways

2689. PROF ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any proposals under Government's consideration for conversion of State Highways into National Highways which were forwarded by Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of National Highways of this State which are proposed to be converted into express highways during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) All the proposals received from the State Government of Gujarat for declaration of state roads as new National Highways have been returned to State Government. Presently, new National Highways are not being declared due to fund constraints.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Problems impeding NHDP

2690. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Highways Development Programme inaugurated a few years back to provide connectivity to various parts of the country is progressing as per schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the project is likely to be completed and made operational;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken for addressing the problems impeding the project's timely completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir, National Highways Development Project (NHDP) is generally progressing as per schedule.

(b) The Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) component is targeted for completion by December, 2004. The target is expected to be achieved except for small portions of 4% spilling beyond. North-South and East-West corridor component is targeted for completion by December, 2007 and this target is expected to be achieved.

(c) The spilling of some projects of Golden Quadrilateral beyond December, 2004 would be mainly on account of they being under litigation and one project being implemented with World Bank assistance whose procurement process takes time.

(d) The following efforts are being made by the Government to ensure completion of project as per schedule.

(i) Provision of bonus for early completion and penalty for delay, in civil works contracts.

(ii) Meetings with the States to resolve problems associated with land acquisition, shifting utilities, law and orders etc.

(iii) Taking up issues at the level of Minister with Chief Ministers of States through letters/meetings to resolve problems related to land acquisition, law and order etc.

(iv) Frequent review meetings at the level of Minister with Contractors/ Consultants/officials of NHAI.

(v) Regular monitoring through daily and weekly progress reports.

Monitoring of projects by Prime Minister

2691. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has decided to monitor projects such as Golden Quadrilateral and North-South, East-West Corridor Projects to improve performance of the ongoing works;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a decision has, recently, been taken to this effect in the Union Cabinet; and